

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/308,562

Examiner

Laura C Cole

Applicant(s)

AKPORIAYE ET AL.

Art Unit

1744

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 19 May 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 18,19,21-38,42-45,47-57,62-64,66-77,84,87-91,93-106,110,112,114,115,117 and 121-134.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 May 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 2182004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 5272004,6152004
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph Gorski on 15 June 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Cancel Claims 61, 81, and 82

Claim 18 Line 3 after "closed" insert - - in a pressure tight manner - -

Claim 18 Line 3 after "openings" insert - - by a first closure member - -

Claim 18 Line 3 before "open" insert - - said plural openings being - -

Claim 18 Line 5 before "closure" insert - - second - -

Claim 18 Line 7 before both occurrences of "closure" insert - - second - -

In each of Claims 19, 31, 34, 35, 51, 70, 75, 97, 105, 110, 112, 114, 115, and 130, insert - - second - - before each occurrence of "closure"

In each of Claims 21, 42, 87, 104, and 121, from the first four lines delete - - further...perforations (or plural openings) - -, and in the final line delete - - another - - and in its place insert - - first - -

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In each of Claims 38, 57, 77, 84, and 117, insert - - second - - before each occurrence of "closure", and delete the phrase - - said plural openings...with one another - -

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art made of record does not include the combination of a multi-autoclave comprising, a block having openings that have both ends closed in a pressure tight manner, a first and second closure member, a locking device (to prevent fluid communication), a cover, a seal, and that the openings extend completely through the block. Further there is no suggestion to combine a multi-autoclave comprising a block, closure member, locking device (to prevent fluid communication), a locking device including threaded fasteners, and a seal member comprising spherically shaped bodies. Nor is there a suggestion to combine a multi-autoclave comprising a block, closure member, locking device (to prevent fluid communication), a frame surrounding the block, and a seal member comprising spherically shaped bodies.

Furthermore, USPN 5,753,187 to Reynolds et al. disclose a similar device having a block having openings that extend completely through the block, the ends are closed in a pressure tight manner by a locking device, a cover, and a seal. However, the first closure member of Reynolds et al. is not closing one end of the plural openings in a pressure tight manner. It is not until both the locking device forces the second closure member against the block that the first closure member will be sealed in a pressure tight manner.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura C Cole whose telephone number is (571) 272-1272. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:30am - 5pm, alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert J Warden can be reached on (571) 272-1281. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LCC
LCC
15 June 2004


Terrence R. Till
Primary Examiner